Commodities	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Project goods	40	65	36
Textiles	6507	6824	6737
Handicrafts	398	443	524
Carpets	488	464	421
Cotton raw including waste	337	212	44
Petroleum products	401	310	86

SOURCE: DGCI&S

State-wise export data are not being compiled by DGCI&S.

(c) Major policy initiatives for some of the sectors include reduction in transac tion time and cost through electronic processing of applications and annual advance licences for duty free imports; relaxation of various restrictions on units functioning in Export Processing Zones; recognition of services sector exports; special facilities for certain sectors such as chemicals, plastics, textiles, leather, gem and jewellery, handicrafts etc. and re moval of quantitative restrictions on a large number of items.

No specific sector-wise targets have been fixed.

(d) The deceleration of exports is mainly due to South East Asian crisis and world economic recession. A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplifi cation of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy.

Export Growth

2966. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures for imporvement of export grwoth;

(b) the names of goods which are more in demand from our country; and

(c) whether the benefits would be extended to the manufacturer exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The major export products of India in terms of value are Textiles including garments gems & jewellery, agri. & allied products, chemicals & related products and engineering goods.

A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. The Government is also facilitating investment in sectors with strong export potential, encouraging diversification of India's export basket, address infrastructure short comings, improve export facilitation measures and thus enhance the overall competitiveness of India exports. The Government is according high priority to exports and all necessary steps are being taken to put exports on high growth trajectory.

All the benefits available to the exporters under the Exim Policy are extended to the manfuacturer exporters also.

Advisory Committee on International Trade

2967. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted an Advisory Committee on international trade;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Committee; and